

SOME REMARKS ON TILLANDSIA CONFINIS (BROMELIACEAE)

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Tillandsia confinis L. B. Smith (1953) is an epiphytic species of the montane rainforest and is disjunctively distributed (so far as known) from northern Colombia and adjacent Venezuela to Ecuador and central Perú, and has its southernmost locality in northern Bolivia (as "T. subtropicalis L. B. Smith", (1963). Apart from this East Andean distribution it has been found several times in southwestern Guayana.

Two varieties have been distinguished, the typical and var. caudata L. B. Smith (1963) (Smith & Downs 1977). The main difference, as indicated by the name, is the length of the lower primary bracts in relation to the spikes.

Most recently T. abysmophila L. B. Smith & Steyermark in L. B. Smith (1986) has been described as a new species from the Guayana Highland. Reexamination and comparison with the herbarium specimens deposited at the US have revealed the identity of T. abysmophila with T. confinis var. caudata, the former being consequently a synonym of the latter. Silva & Brazão 60942 (NY, S, US) collected in the Serra Pirapucú, Estado Amazonas, Brazil (southern Guayana Highland) and determined as T. confinis var. confinis (Smith & Downs 1977), obviously also is var. caudata which has been known from northern Colombia only and is new for both the floras of Venezuela and Brazil.

Finally it should be noted that in none of the protologs of the taxa mentioned above are the characters of the petals indicated, but in Flora Neotropica (Smith & Downs 1977) "white petals" are described. The herbarium label of Silva & Brazão 60942 bears "corolla purplish", and this in contrast to Smith & Downs (1977) information. At this moment it can not be decided if this is a further character to separate both varieties. A rather small postflowering specimen scarcely 30 cm high of T. confinis has been collected by the junior author in Perú (Dept. Huánuco, Cerros Sira, ca. 900 m s. m., August 1987) and is now cultivated at the Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna. Detailed floral studies are intended as soon as it comes into bloom.

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- Smith, L. B. (1953): Notes on Bromeliaceae I.- Phytologia 4(4): 213-221.  
- - - (1963): Notes on Bromeliaceae XIX.- Phytologia 8(9): 497 - 510.  
- - - (1986): Revision of the Guayana Highland Bromeliaceae.- Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 73(4): 689-721.  
- - - Downs, R. J. (1977): Tillandsioideae (Bromeliaceae).- in: Flora Neotropica 14(2).- New York Botanical Garden.

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